

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the Figures 1-9 with the replacement sheets enclosed herewith.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first tubular member and the second tubular member are plastic tubular members.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were presented for examination. Claims 1-15 were previously restricted as follows: Group I including claims 1-10, 14 and 15 and Group II including claims 11-13. In addition, the drawings were objected to with respect to the character of the letters, numbers and lines. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1-10, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pandelena et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,451,368) in view of Iggulden (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,247 B1).

Applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, claims 1-10, 14 and 15 with traverse.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments.

Applicant has replaced the Figures 1-9 with the replacement sheets enclosed herewith. Applicant submits the replacement sheets overcome the objections to the Figures. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added in the replacement sheets

Applicant has deleted claims 3 and 4 and amended claim 1 to more succinctly describe the invention. Accordingly, applicant submits that the rejection to claim 3 is now moot.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Pandelena et al. and Iggulden do not teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 14, as amended.

Referring to claim 1, as amended, applicant respectfully submits that neither reference provides any teaching of: "a constricted portion configured to grip an outer surface of said filter for rotating said filter to remove said filter from said substrate." In contrast, the collector of Pandelena et al. is merely utilized to collect fluid from a filter and is not

configured to rotate the filter. Further, Iggulden does not provide any teaching of the foregoing limitations.

Accordingly, because the combination of Pandelena et al. and Iggulden does not teach each and every limitation of claim 1, as amended, and claims 2, 5-10 which depend from claim 1, applicant submit that claims 1, 2, 5-10 are allowable over these references.

Referring to claim 14, as amended, applicant respectfully submits that neither reference provides any teaching of: "sliding a constricted portion of a fluid containment apparatus along a periphery of the filter toward the substrate on which the filter is mounted until an absorbent member disposed in a hollow pocket of said fluid containment apparatus contacts the substrate." Further, neither reference provides any teaching of: "rotating said constricted portion of said fluid containment apparatus and the filter to begin unscrewing the filter from the substrate, said absorbent member being positioned to absorb a portion of fluid that spills from said filter."


Accordingly, because the combination of Pandelena et al. and Iggulden does not teach each and every limitation of claim 14, as amended, and claim 15 which depends from claim 14, applicant submit that claims 14 and 15 are allowable over these references.

Applicant has added new claims 16-21 to claim particular aspects of the present invention. Applicant submits that support for claims 16-21 is found in the specification and in the original drawings. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced in claims 16-21.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is now in a condition for allowance. If there are any additional charges with respect to this amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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